

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 12, 2000**. Weather conditions continue to be unseasonably mild across most of the state. Many parts of the state need more rain. Soil moisture was rated 20 percent very short, 46 percent short, and 34 percent adequate.

| Progress In Percentages | | | | | | Conditions in Percentages | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|---------------------------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item | Event | This Week | Last Week | 1998 | 5-Yr Avg | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Corn | Planted | 35 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | Emerged | 7 | -- | -- | -- | | | | | |
| Wheat | Jointing | 32 | -- | -- | -- | 0 | 4 | 14 | 68 | 14 |
| Cattle | | | | | | 2 | 9 | 30 | 51 | 8 |
| Pasture | | | | | | 5 | 17 | 41 | 34 | 3 |

County Agent Comments

“Most farmers are applying herbicides and getting equipment ready to begin planting. Unless we have a wet spring, crops should be planted early this year.”

— Mack Young, Quitman County

“Some corn is being planted. Pastures are either getting seeded or aeriated in preparation for summer grazing. Due to such a mild winter, the cattle survived on very little feed.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“Row crop producers are applying lime and fertilizer, preparing ground, and beginning to plant corn. Cattle producers are applying lime and fertilizer and applying herbicides for weed control. Cattle producers are concerned about the low levels of water in their ponds. Farmers in general are concerned about the less than normal amount of winter rainfall.”

— Stanley Wise, Jr., Union County

“Corn planting and other field work went well during the first part of the week. Friday and Saturday, we got a much needed rain with total amounts being in the 2 to 2½ inch range.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore County

“Soil moisture is a major concern of producers. We are currently running some 21 inches behind normal in rainfall for the period from July until the end of February. Because of a mild winter, producers also anticipate large numbers of insects emerging. During the time when most tillage is required diesel prices are soaring.”

— Tim W. Pepper, Yazoo County

“We are still in need of a good rain. Some corn planting has been done. Pastures are in good to excellent shape, but may mature faster if no appreciable rainfall happens in the next couple of weeks.”

— Richard Hay, Amite County

“The Gulf Coast is in desperate need of rainfall. We are running 5-18 inches below normal. Many fruit trees are in full bloom. A sudden cold front could cause damage once spring arrives.”

— Chance McDavid, Harrison County

| Weather Summary from March 6, 2000 to March 12, 2000 for Mississippi | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| District/Station | Air Temperature | | | | | Precipitation | | | | 4 Inch Soil Temperature | | | Avg Pan Evap |
| | Max | Min | Avg | Norm | DFN | One Week | DFN | Rain Days | Four Weeks | Max | Min | Avg | |
| 1. Upper Delta | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clarksdale | 81 | 39 | 62 | 50 | +12 | 1.08 | -0.16 | 3 | 4.92 | 70 | 50 | 61 | 0.39 |
| Cleveland | 81 | 31 | 58 | | | 0.80 | | 2 | 5.09 | | | | |
| Tunica | | | | 50 | | E0.71 | -0.54 | 2 | 4.20 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 81 | 31 | 60 | 51 | +9 | E0.86 | -0.47 | 2 | 4.74 | 70 | 50 | 61 | 0.39 |
| 2. North-Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Holly Springs | 82 | 34 | 59 | 48 | +11 | E0.59 | -0.74 | 2 | 2.65 | 68 | 49 | 60 | |
| Memphis | 79 | 28 | 58 | 51 | +7 | 1.02 | -0.17 | 3 | 5.82 | | | | |
| Oxford | 81 | 27 | 60 | 49 | +11 | 1.37 | +0.04 | 2 | 3.32 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 82 | 27 | 59 | 51 | +8 | E0.99 | -0.34 | 2 | 3.93 | 68 | 49 | 60 | |
| 3. Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Booneville | 83 | 28 | 60 | 49 | +11 | 1.40 | -0.00 | 2 | | | | | |
| Corinth | 83 | 27 | 60 | 50 | +10 | 1.40 | +0.07 | 2 | 4.80 | | | | |
| Iuka | 80 | 27 | 59 | | | 1.11 | | 2 | 3.03 | | | | |
| Pontotoc | 79 | 28 | 60 | 50 | +10 | 2.41 | +1.01 | 3 | 5.61 | 71 | 49 | 59 | 0.16 |
| Tupelo | 81 | 31 | 59 | 52 | +7 | 1.56 | +0.16 | 4 | 4.23 | | | | |
| Verona | 82 | 30 | 60 | | | 1.96 | | 3 | 4.91 | 71 | 38 | 58 | 0.14 |
| Extreme/Average | 83 | 27 | 60 | 51 | +9 | 1.64 | +0.24 | 3 | 4.51 | 71 | 38 | 59 | 0.14 |
| 4. Lower Delta | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belzoni | 84 | 33 | 60 | 54 | +6 | 1.95 | +0.51 | 2 | | 78 | 55 | 67 | |
| Greenwood | 81 | 32 | 60 | 53 | +7 | 2.49 | +1.16 | 3 | 4.06 | | | | |
| Rolling Fork | 85 | 34 | 63 | 53 | +10 | 0.20 | -1.17 | 2 | 1.62 | 80 | 55 | 69 | 0.12 |
| Stoneville | 83 | 32 | 59 | 52 | +7 | 1.36 | +0.10 | 2 | 2.74 | 76 | 48 | 63 | |
| Yazoo City | 87 | 36 | 64 | 55 | +9 | 2.27 | +0.80 | 1 | 3.71 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 87 | 32 | 61 | 54 | +7 | 1.65 | +0.29 | 2 | 3.03 | 80 | 48 | 66 | 0.12 |
| 5. Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carthage | 82 | 39 | 64 | 53 | +11 | E1.50 | +0.11 | 1 | | | | | |
| Jackson | 82 | 36 | 61 | 55 | +6 | 2.01 | +0.70 | 2 | 3.28 | | | | |
| Winona | 80 | 33 | 61 | 50 | +11 | 2.05 | +0.65 | 2 | 4.58 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 82 | 33 | 62 | 54 | +8 | E1.85 | +0.45 | 2 | 3.93 | | | | |
| 6. East-Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brooksville | 80 | 39 | 66 | | | 0.05 | -1.28 | 1 | 1.33 | 67 | 51 | 60 | |
| Columbus | | | | 52 | | | | | | | | | |
| State | 80 | 30 | 60 | 52 | +8 | 1.29 | -0.04 | 2 | 3.43 | 70 | 50 | 62 | 0.12 |
| Extreme/Average | 80 | 30 | 63 | 53 | +10 | 0.67 | -0.74 | 2 | 2.38 | 70 | 50 | 61 | 0.12 |
| 7. Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crystal | 80 | 33 | 62 | | | 2.40 | | 1 | 4.07 | 75 | 50 | 66 | |
| Natchez | 82 | 32 | 65 | 58 | +7 | 3.05 | +1.60 | 1 | 4.68 | | | | |
| Oakley | 83 | 33 | 64 | 55 | +9 | 8.39 | +7.03 | 1 | 9.82 | 80 | 52 | 69 | |
| Vicksburg | 82 | 34 | 63 | | | 2.00 | | 1 | 3.24 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 83 | 32 | 63 | 56 | +7 | 3.96 | +2.53 | 1 | 5.45 | 80 | 50 | 67 | |
| 8. South-Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Columbia | 83 | 34 | 64 | 57 | +7 | 1.38 | -0.09 | 2 | 2.80 | | | | |
| McComb | 81 | 34 | 62 | 56 | +6 | 1.05 | -0.38 | 2 | 2.35 | | | | |
| Extreme/Average | 83 | 34 | 63 | 57 | +6 | 1.22 | -0.24 | 2 | 2.58 | | | | |
| 9. Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaumont | | | | | | E0.71 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Hattiesburg | 84 | 34 | 65 | 56 | +9 | 1.33 | -0.14 | 3 | 2.37 | | | | |
| Laurel | 82 | 37 | 62 | 55 | +7 | 1.27 | -0.13 | 2 | 1.47 | | | | |
| Meridian | 82 | 33 | 60 | 55 | +5 | 0.75 | -0.79 | 3 | 2.15 | | | | |
| Newton | 82 | 32 | 62 | 53 | +9 | 0.89 | -0.58 | 1 | 2.31 | 63 | 43 | 53 | 0.12 |
| Extreme/Average | 84 | 32 | 62 | 56 | +6 | E1.06 | -0.41 | 2 | 2.08 | 63 | 43 | 53 | 0.12 |
| 10. Coastal | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bay St Louis | 87 | 40 | 64 | | | E0.10 | | 1 | 0.42 | | | | |
| Biloxi AFB | 81 | 39 | 65 | | | 0.08 | | 1 | 0.34 | | | | |
| Gulfport | 77 | 36 | 65 | 59 | +6 | 0.02 | -1.26 | 1 | 0.90 | | | | |
| Pascagoula | 81 | 36 | 62 | | | 0.29 | | 3 | 0.69 | | | | |
| Poplarville | 83 | 32 | 65 | 57 | +8 | 0.42 | -1.04 | 1 | 1.37 | 80 | 53 | 68 | 0.16 |
| Extreme/Average | 87 | 32 | 64 | 59 | +5 | E0.18 | -1.24 | 1 | 0.74 | 80 | 53 | 68 | 0.16 |
| State | 87 | 27 | 62 | 54 | +8 | E1.53 | +0.13 | 2 | 3.33 | 80 | 38 | 62 | 0.16 |

DFN = Departure from Normal.

E = Estimated Values.